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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **BLM Must Address Fundamental Issues Before Any Decisions Can Be Made on Proposed Mine Expansion**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO –The City of Glenwood Springs is disappointed to learn that the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has deemed the latest Plan of Operations (POO) submitted by Rocky Mountain Resources (RMR) – for a massive, harmful expansion of the Transfer Trail Mine by as much as 5,000% – to be complete without first resolving fundamental issues of the legality of the mine’s operations and mining claims, and its impacts on the community and region. Without first determining whether RMR even has a valid legal claim to mine these lands under the Mining Act of 1872, and without first evaluating whether RMR can support the massive expansion using available traffic routes or adequate water rights for dust mitigation, it is impossible for BLM to determine whether the expansion plan submitted by RMR can be implemented. Nor will the BLM be able to evaluate the true impacts to the City of Glenwood Springs and its neighbors.

The City of Glenwood Springs is pleased that the BLM has committed to a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to fully explore the impacts of adding up to 600 trucks a day to Glenwood Springs’ local roads, a 24-hour mining operation next to Glenwood Springs Adventure Park and residential neighborhoods, and permanent visual scaring to the landscape surrounding Glenwood Springs – a community that depends upon the natural beauty of the Colorado Rocky Mountains for the majority of its economy. Glenwood Springs is also pleased that BLM has agreed to including the City as a coordinating party under the EIS process, giving City officials a full seat at the table from the beginning of this EIS process.

The City calls upon BLM to put first things first – and determine now whether the RMR claim for current mining operations (let alone a drastic expansion of operations) is permitted under the 1872 Mining Act, given that the City has provided BLM with truckloads of information showing that RMR is excavating common variety rocks for road construction and other purposes that are not authorized under their mining claims. The City of Glenwood Springs and other parties have given BLM RMR truck shipping manifests, RMR advertising, RMR market price sheets, and other information showing that RMR is digging common variety rocks and selling them without required payments to the U.S. taxpayer – none of which RMR has denied and none of which BLM has yet adequately investigated. But BLM lets RMR continue digging, and let’s this Beverly Hills company continue to push forward a harmful proposal that is strongly opposed by the local community and region.

The City calls upon the BLM to expedite and complete its locatable mineral determination for both the existing and proposed minerals for all 44 mining claims, and to set a time certain for when this determination will be complete, rather than focus its attention on processing RMR's terrible plan for expansion. "The Bureau of Land Management has the information now that it needs to determine whether RMR is digging, hauling, and selling rocks they are not permitted to mine," says Mayor Jonathan Godes. "We ask BLM to stop putting the community between a rock and a hard place."

If and when the NEPA process starts, the City is pleased that BLM will conduct the following to ensure the eventual EIS process conforms to law and is viewed as fair to the local community:

1. A full and complete hydrological study to evaluate any potential harm to the hot spring aquifers within Glenwood Springs.
2. An ethnographic study that includes the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Utah & Ouray Reservation.
3. An evaluation of the limestone caves that could be damaged by the proposed expansion to include potential rare flora and fauna.
4. Commence the process of including the City of Glenwood Springs as a NEPA coordinating party in the EIS process, so that the City can ensure that the scoping of this EIS is full and proper.
5. Finish all existing Freedom of Information Act requests and remain responsive to future requests.

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